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**SERVICE**

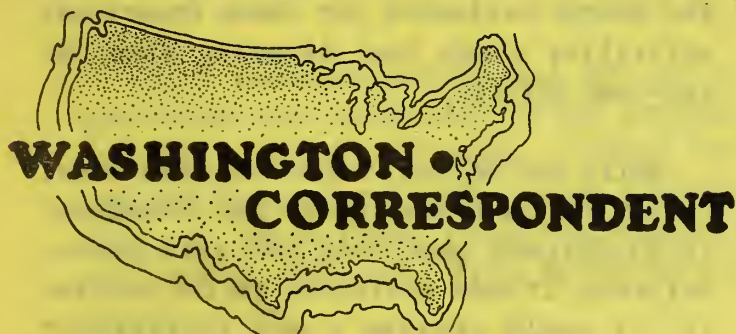
# NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION  
SERVICE U. S. D. A. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

January 20, 1942

U. S. Department of Agriculture

No. 28



Have you been trying to figure out the reorganization too? On our end, we didn't get very far with our speculative thinking because quite promptly we discovered there were too many elements in the picture we knew nothing about. So we quit the conjecture and started from a new angle. We started with the things we considered to be known facts and went on from there. Something like this:

We're in a war we're going to win, and the quickest way to do our part in winning it is to pull together. The Secretary says that as an organization we'll pull most effectively in team with the AAA, Crop Insurance and the Sugar Division. So we're going to do it that way.

All four of us (SCS, AAA, CI and the Sugar Division) are interested in conservation and best land use. In the past we've had somewhat different approaches to the conservation objective; now we can get together and honestly pool our efforts. We can do that too. There isn't a better record of cooperation anywhere in Government.

And here's another fact: R. M. Evans, our new Administrator, has a long-time, personal record as a champion of conserva-

tion. No one in the SCS need ever be concerned for a minute that he will overlook or slight the conservation objectives SCS has been working toward.

Dillon Myer's work for conservation is known to everyone in the SCS. If he has to leave the SCS we think he looks mighty good as our new Assistant Administrator.

Both Evans and Myer say there will be no precipitous, unstudied action in regard to the reorganization. They say the new job we are now undertaking together is bigger than the job we were considering before. That being the case, they reason that each one of us, as individuals, has a bigger job than before. That makes sense to us.

By bringing the financial, personnel, technical, research and other resources of our respective agencies to bear on a common program for the Agricultural Adjustment and Conservation Administration, each agency strengthens and implements the others. There is no reason why the result should not be better Government administration, more conservation for every taxpayer's dollar, improved farm income, greater security on the farm from many viewpoints, and a more effective contribution to Democracy's victory over the Axis!

All of us working together have a great deal to offer, and now we have more resources than ever before with which to work. The country has a right to expect results from us. With the leadership we have been given, there is every reason to expect that results will be forthcoming to the advantage of all.

(Continued on page 3)

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## BARROWS RESIGNS TO TAKE JOB IN AMA

Leland Barrows has resigned from his position as Chief of the Personnel Management Division to accept an appointment on the staff of the Agricultural Marketing Administrator--Roy F. Hendrickson.

In announcing Mr. Barrows' resignation, Dillon Myer praised the work of the Personnel Management Division Chief. Mr. Myer said, "Mr. Barrows has made an outstanding contribution to the Soil Conservation Service. Under his guidance the Personnel Management Division has taken an effective part in organization planning and there has been developed in the Service a personnel program which we believe is second to none."

Miss Verna C. Mohagen, Head of the Employment Section, has been designated Acting Chief of the Personnel Management Division, to succeed Mr. Barrows.

## ARMY AND SCS COOPERATE ON CAMP SOIL PROTECTION

In order that SCS may assist the War Department in soil protection on military reservations in this country, the Service and Army officials have developed a plan of cooperation which is working most effectively.

Under the cooperative arrangement, C. R. Enlow, Chief of the Agronomy Division, has been detailed to the War Department as SCS Liaison Officer in the Office of the Quartermaster General. He will work with army groups in aiding them to obtain assistance in connection with conservation problems at the military camps in all sections of the country. Plans for the needed assistance will be developed by Mr. Enlow and then referred to SCS field officials who have been assigned to Army zone offices to expedite the work.

## BUDGET ESTIMATES SHOW FEW CHANGES FOR SCS

When the President delivered his message to Congress on the budget for this Nation "in a world at war", he recognized the importance of the USDA "Food-for-Freedom" program by making few changes in the budget estimates for those Department activities which deal directly with the war-time effort.

While the SCS estimate for 1943 under Public 46, as presented by the President, is \$3,094,905 less than the 1942 appropriation, if made available in its entirety, it would provide a net increase of about \$77,000 more under the appropriation than is actually available during the fiscal year 1942, because a substantial part of the 1942 appropriation was impounded in a budget reserve.

The budget estimate under the LU authority provides for land management and development work on a limited basis and for costs of completing purchases initiated during and prior to the current year. No funds were included for new land purchases either in SCS or in other Departmental agencies. The total amount of LU funds recommended under the 1943 estimate is \$647,555. Authority to carry over unobligated balances was not included in the proposed estimate.

For cooperative farm forestry, the same amount is recommended as was available in 1942. The water facilities estimate under the regular appropriation for 1943 is \$202,585 as compared with \$500,000 for 1942.

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"The Spokesman-Review", Spokane (Wash.) newspaper, ran a feature article recently on the local SCS employees and their nearly 100 percent participation in civilian defense activities.



## PROPER LAND USE AIDS IN DRAINAGE REHABILITATION

Officials of the South Ross township drainage district, Vermillion County, Ill., have developed what soil conservationists consider the first over-all plan in Region 5 tying in proper land use with drainage rehabilitation.

Eight farms, comprising 1,409 acres, lie within the boundaries of the drainage district north of Danville. Erosion control is not a major factor in the land use plans of these farms since the slope of the land varies only from level to 0.5 percent.

Three of the farms covering more than half of the district already have in effect complete land use plans, including improved drainage, development of food and cover for wildlife and erosion control, especially along highways. Complete land use plans are now being drafted by the Danville CCC camp technicians for the other five farms. In addition, land use plans have been made and are being applied on three farms outside the district through which the ditch continues.

Chairman W. G. Hartshorn, Jr., of the commissioners said the plan was adopted to enable the farmers to "lift themselves by their bootstraps."

Continuous cropping in corn and soybeans had decreased the land's fertility and consequently the yields. When the depression of the early '30's struck the farmers, they quit paying drainage taxes and ditches began to clog up and further decrease the production of the land.

The land use programs outlined for the farms include agronomic practices which in addition to providing better drainage will increase the soil's fertility and boost crop yields.

## ARIZONA REFERENDA APPROVE 8 DISTRICTS

Eight soil conservation districts, including a total of approximately 111,070 acres of cultivated land, were overwhelmingly approved in Arizona referenda held during the week of December 14-20. Only six negative votes were cast in all eight referenda, according to Allen F. Kinnison, State Coordinator of Arizona.

These districts are the first to be organized in Arizona under the State enabling act of March 1941, which limits acreage within districts to agricultural lands.

The districts and approximate acreages are as follows: Bridgeport district, Yavapai County, 1,774 acres; Camp Verde district, Yavapai County, 5,247 acres; San Francisco Peaks district, Coconino County, 17,349 acres; Apache County district, Apache County, 24,000 acres; San Simon district, Graham County, 700 acres; Navajo County district, Navajo County, 11,000 acres; Duncan Valley district, Greenlee County, 18,000 acres; and Gila Valley district, Graham County, 23,000 acres.

Not a single negative vote was cast in referenda held for four districts: Bridgeport, Camp Verde, San Francisco Peaks, and San Simon.

## WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (Continued from page 1)

Well, that's the way we finally did our figuring. And that's about where we decided to leave it, for this week. It can be pretty productive--figuring on this new alignment--as long as you start with the facts and stick to them.

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BUY DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS  
--and remind your friends too!



## PHYSICAL SURVEYS MEN MEET IN WASHINGTON

Physical surveys and the part they play both in the program of the SCS and the USDA was the subject of a series of meetings on January 7, 8 and 9 which were arranged by E. A. Norton, Chief of the Physical Surveys Division. The meetings were attended by the chiefs of the regional Physical Surveys Divisions, together with the Washington inspectors and assistant inspectors of the division.

The opening session on January 7 was devoted to a series of talks by SCS men who oriented the work of physical surveys into the general SCS program. The subjects of talks and speakers at that meeting were: "Agricultural Adjustment and Conservation" by D. S. Myer; "Relationships with State Agencies" by J. Phil Campbell; "Land Use Capabilities in Farm Conservation Planning" by C. B. Manifold; "Objective of Project Planning Surveys" by R. H. Davis; and "Procedure in Project Planning Surveys" by C. F. Clayton.

Other sessions were devoted to technical discussions of division work. Particular emphasis was placed on a number of technical points which have come up during the past 18 months and on which there was a desire for a uniformity of interpretation throughout the country. Some time was devoted to a discussion of ways in which surveys could most adequately serve agriculture in the present national emergency.

At the closing sessions on January 9, Mr. Norton led the discussion of how physical surveys could be used in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies, and the regional chiefs responded with brief statements of future plans for a more closely integrated field program.

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Lloyd E. Partain was chairman of the Soils and Soil Conservation Committee at the Minneapolis Extension Conference.

## 6000 SCS WORKERS GET ADMINISTRATIVE RAISES

The New Year should be remembered pleasantly by more than 6,000 SCS employees who received on their first January pay day supplementary checks for administrative raises. The long-awaited raises, made possible through the enactment of the Mead-Ramspeck Act, were retroactive for most employees to October 1, 1941.

According to records of Personnel Management Division, 396 Washington employees and 5,491 field employees were given administrative raises effective October 1, 1941. On January 1, 1942 there were 69 additional employees in Washington and 339 field employees who became eligible for administrative raises.

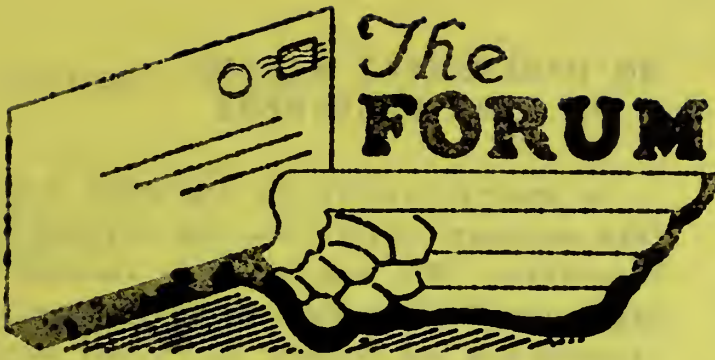
The Mead-Ramspeck Act provides for administrative raises each 18 months of service for all employees in grades up through CAF 10 and P 3, and raises each 30 months for employees in grades CAF 11 or P-4 and above. These raises are subject to the conditions that the efficiency rating of the employee must be good or better than good on the last rating date and that his conduct and services have continued to be satisfactory.

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SCS hung up another record in safety when Regions 1, 7, and 10 had no accidents within the entire regions respectively during the month of November, 1941. This is the first time that three regions accomplished the spectacular feat at the same time, according to Harold C. Mesch, Head of the Safety and Health Section.

Two regions - 10 and 6 - had no accident records for October 1941, and that was the first time two regions had clean slates for accidents simultaneously. Region 9 was the lone no accident record holder in September. Region 10 can proudly boast that 12 times since August 1940 it has had a no-accident month, but the number of employees in that region is very small in comparison to other regions.





carries the herein referred to action by the supervisors.

Inasmuch as you ask for comments from the field, we submit this letter of experiences for whatever it may be worth.

Wilbur H. Stevenson  
District Conservationist

## DISTRICT RELATIONS

Service News dated December 8 carries under the column "Washington Correspondent" a very interesting analysis, particularly for this District, regarding Service relations to the district governing body.

More than a year ago practically the same six questions you ask were under discussion by the Washington County, Maryland, District Board of Supervisors. The results of that discussion become record by resolutions passed. Singularly enough the resolutions parallel the five suggested answers you give in the column.

The supervisors then established what today can well be called priorities in an all-out attack on soil erosion and water conservation for the Washington County District. First, the supervisors laid all emphasis on proper land use as regard to physical features and crop adaptation in farm planning; secondly, application of conservation practices; thirdly, treatment and management, and, lastly, a completed farm conservation plan. In their judgment, this order of things was a logical build-up for a final ideal conclusion.

Experience, to date, in developing cooperation with land owners justifies the above action taken by the Board of Supervisors, and confirms, here at least, the soundness of the analysis you present in the "Service News".

The Washington County, Maryland, Soil Conservation District Supervisors' annual report of December, 1940, copy of which was prepared for the Washington office,

## CONSERVE MEMORANDA

In view of the current popular panic to conserve paper, would it not be seasonable, not to say sensible, to minimize the unceasing load to work units of memoranda, bulletins, advisory statements, circulars, ad infinitum, which do not apply to work units?

One method, which might be efficient, would be to notify work units about inapplicable, superseded, rescinded, or obsolete papers by a half page mimeo sheet with a simple notation of what the original referred to.

This would render a three way, economical service. (1) All work unit series of such matter would be complete but less bulky, (2) administrative and clerical time would be spared for getting more conservation measures on the land, and (3) gobs and gobs of good paper would remain in high offices, where a lot of people are probably sending their extra paper anyway.

But then, again, maybe we'll be told that paper is still cheaper than the manpower necessary to analyze the original matter and revise it for field circulation. (In the words of Li'l Abner, "It's confoozin' but amoozin'").

D.M.G.

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How to plan and execute an effective blackout is described in a new 60-page pamphlet prepared by the War Department and issued by the OCD.



## BONDS AND STAMPS GO LIKE HOTCAKES

SCS employees are responding most loyally to the Treasury call for the purchase of Defense Bonds and Stamps. With each pay period the percentages of employee participation, both in Washington and the field, are steadily mounting until the records are so outstanding that we may point to them with justifiable pride.

In Washington, SCS employees continue to lead all other USDA bureaus with a 98.5 percent of employee participation as of the December 23 pay period. Reports are now in from the field for the December 15 pay period with some mighty fine purchase records. Here are the percentages of employee participation by regions--including both regional and area offices.

Region 1	94.8%	Region 6	95.0%
Region 2	85.5	Region 7	83.0
Region 3	98.8	Region 8	91.1
Region 4	87.4	Region 9	95.7
Region 5	96.3	Region 10	77.6

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January 1 marks the effective date for bringing into the classified service a large number of clerical and technical positions under the provisions of the Ramspeck Act. Recommendations for classification of individuals to these positions will be started by Personnel Management Division as soon as the necessary forms are available.

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SCS employees in Albuquerque contributed a total of \$1,342.65, or an average of \$5.22 per person, to the Community Chest Campaign recently completed there, according to K. P. Blair, Chief of the regional Budget and Finance Division. Nearly 90 percent of SCS employees contributed.

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BUY DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS  
--and remind your friends too!

## NO PREFERENCE RATING ON FARM MACHINERY

In order to clarify the confusion about farm machinery priorities, the Division of Priorities, OPM, has issued a statement explaining that preference rating certificates are not needed for retail purchases of metal products. The OPM release is quoted here in part:

"Many distributors of consumers' goods have told their customers that they cannot sell to them unless their orders are accompanied by preference rating certificates.

"The Priorities Division pointed out that retail consumers cannot and must not be expected to produce preference rating certificates, when placing normal orders for finished goods.

"In the case of important civilian items, as for example, farm machinery and spare parts for privately-owned automobiles and trucks, the Priorities Division has given assistance to manufacturers so that they may continue their production. The goods manufactured as a result of this assistance are then made available through the normal trade channels, and retail buyers in general do not need, and have not been issued, preference rating certificates."

## PRINTERS' INK

"Mystery Among the Locusts" by Henry Hopp, associate botanist at Beltsville, Md., in the January *American Forests*.

"Sand Dune Fixation in Michigan" by K. Lehotsky, associate forester at Grand Rapids, Mich., in the December *Journal of Forestry*.

"Land Must Be Managed, Loved To Be Productive, Says Kriebel" by R. M. Kriebel, assistant biologist at Bedford, Ind., in the December *Tennessee Conservationist*



## RESEARCH NEWS

Two booklets have just been released that tell the story in pictures of two important phases of our research work.

These booklets "Cooperative Research in Soil and Water Conservation at Spur, Texas" and "Cooperative Research in Sedimentation Studies at Pasadena, Cal." will be available to SCS personnel to inform them of some of the results of our research work. Other reports will follow that will explain and illustrate some of the work that can be applied to the major agricultural regions.

The Spur, Texas, booklet explains the efforts to develop a flexible system of water management on farm and range land that will reduce risk due to adverse climatic conditions and tend to stabilize production through periods of low rainfall. This endeavor to use wisely all the water available is already beginning to pay large dividends. One terraced field over a 12 year period yielded 68 more pounds of lint cotton and brought in \$7.60 more per acre a year than a field that was not terraced.

The sedimentation study tells the story of how density currents of sediment bearing water act. This investigation will enable engineers to improve their designs of dams and reservoirs.

Many reservoirs have lost a large part of their capacity because of sedimentation. Since 25 million people are dependent on reservoirs for their water supply, it is important that these reservoirs be kept from filling up. The research men at Pasadena found through their study of density currents that the same forces that filled a reservoir with sediment could be used to partially clean it out. This was possible because muddy water will run under clear water without disturbing it. Water gates built near the

(Continued in next column)

## KUDZU SEED HARVESTED

With the supply of kudzu seed from the Orient eliminated, SCS workers in Region 2 put on an intensive kudzu seed harvesting campaign last fall which produced a total of 17,461 pounds of seed in the pod.

The amount of seed extracted so far indicates that it will require about 10 pounds of pods to make one pound of clean seed. This would give a total yield of about 1,740 pounds of clean seed.

Although this yield is considerably below the estimated planting requirements for 1942, it represents about 7 or 8 times the amount of seed ever harvested previously in a single year, according to L. M. Scott, chief of the Regional Nursery Division.

There are 30,000 to 45,000 clean seed in a pound, Mr. Scott says.

## OFF THE PRESS

"Erodibility Investigations on Some Soils of the Upper Gila Watershed" by Joel E. Fletcher and E. L. Beutner. Technical Bulletin No. 794.

"Early American Soil Conservationists" by Angus McDonald. Miscellaneous Publication No. 449.

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## REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!

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bottom of reservoirs can be opened at appropriate times to drain out the unwanted debris

Heretofore farmers and others have had difficulty in constructing a dam that wouldn't wash out. The water running over the dam tended to scour out a hole and undermine the structure. In the future, because of other laboratory studies in which model dams were tested, it will be possible to design more efficient dams.



## PRINTERS' INK

"Again, the Dust" by D. Harper Simms, acting chief of Information Division in Region 8, in the December *Land Policy Review*.

"Snow Harvest," written by Frank Harper, head of Current Information Section in Region 9 and illustrated with color photos by Jack James, assistant information specialist at Spokane, Wash., has been accepted for publication by *Country Gentleman* and will appear in the issue that will be out February 25.

"The Design of Plot Experiments for Measurement of Run-off and Erosion" by A. E. Brandt, chief of the Conservation Experiment Stations Division, in the December *Agricultural Engineering*.

"Relation of Field Capacity to Moisture Equivalent in Soils of West Virginia" by G. M. Browning, soil conservationist at Morgantown, W. Va., in the December *Soil Science*.

"How to Store Kudzu Plants" by R. Y. Bailey, chief of the regional Agronomy Division at Spartanburg, S. C., in the November *Progressive Farmer* (Ga.-Ala.-Fla. edition.)

"Common Errors in Evaluating Farm Practices" by G. W. Collier, agricultural economist at Washington, in the November *Journal of Farm Economics*.

"Soil Conservation Research in the United States" by M. L. Nichols, assistant chief in charge of research, in the November *Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Science and Practice*.

"Tax Leverage for Efficient Land Exploitation" by Donald B. Ibach, senior agricultural economist of the Washington Economic Surveys Division, in the October issue of *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology*.

## FIELD MEMORANDA

477-E 120 day Letter of Authorization employment of agricultural and engineering aides. (Special authority for LA employment extended through 1942 field season with same conditions applicable this year.)

1045 Excusing employees on December 23 or 24 for two hours. (Employees granted two hours leave before Christmas rather than the customary day off before Christmas day or before New Year's day.)

1046 Terminations and adjustments in permits on Title III lands. (Outlines policies and procedures for effecting terminations and adjustments in permits for grazing privileges on Title III lands but not including concessionaire agreements or agreements with soil conservation districts, grazing associations and grazing districts.)

1047 Working on holidays. (Employees required to work regular hours of duty on New Year's Day and the holiday which would have followed Washington's Birthday.)

892-A Delegation of authority in connection with the management of Title III lands. (Supersedes FM 912 and amends FM 892 to include six additional sections.)

904-Y Restoration to Civil Service registers after military service. (Attached is Personnel Circular No. 100, Supplement 23 which includes all regulations on subject to date. Most important changes involve the necessity for application for restoration to Civil Service registers within 40 days of discharge from the armed forces, and the requirement that a certificate of discharge must be presented with such application.)